



No. 288 R's

Bikal the Terrible and The Tiger-Tamers



— TALES FROM
MADHYA PRADESH

पिपि कार्दोन

BIKAL THE TERRIBLE

There are many who love to tell a story and many more who love to listen to one. And each time a story is retold, it acquires a new colour and a fresh dimension.

The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience. That is how stories which had first been told centuries ago have been kept alive and why we find recurring themes in the tales told in different regions separated by hundreds of miles.

The stories in this Amar Chitra Katha are adapted from two popular tribal tales of Madhya Pradesh.

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BIKAL, THE TERRIBLE



A TIGER OFTEN WANDERED INTO A VILLAGE NEAR THE FOREST WHERE HE LIVED.

ONE NIGHT AS HE WAS PROWLING OUTSIDE A MERCHANT'S HOUSE —

I AM GOING OUT, FATHER.

AT THIS HOUR?



AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF BIKAL*?



WITH BIKAL AROUND, EVEN THE BRAVEST OF MEN THINK TWICE BEFORE VENTURING OUT IN THE NIGHT.

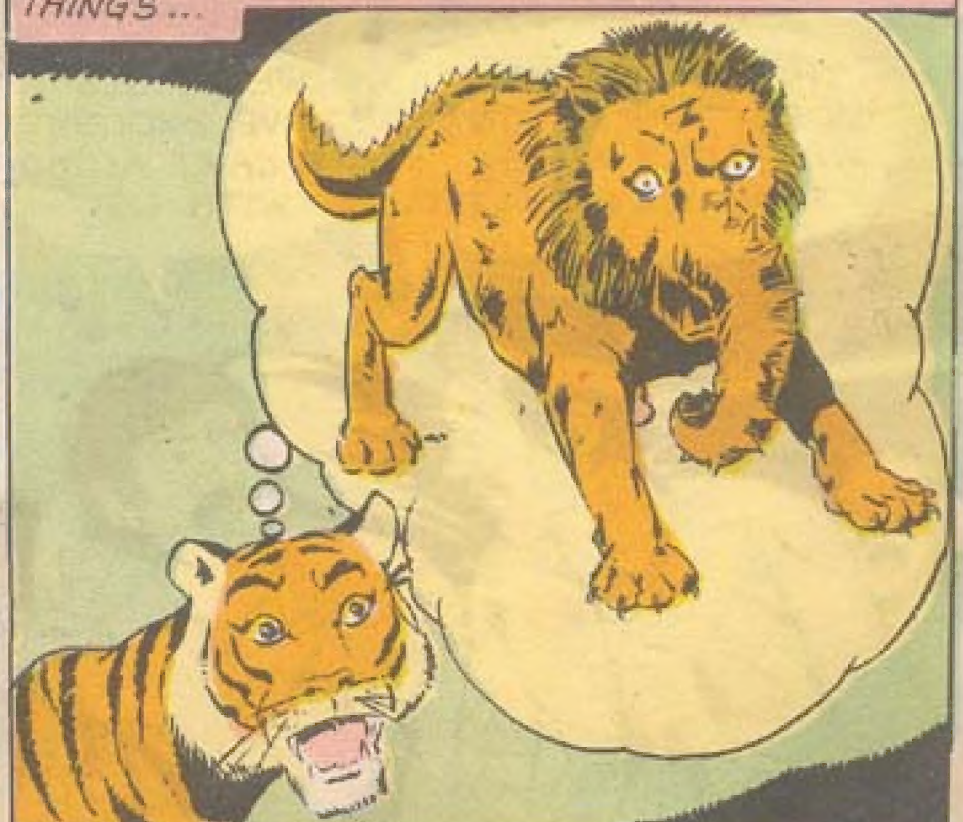


WHO IS THIS BIKAL?



AS THE TIGER WALKED AWAY...

...HE BEGAN TO IMAGINE ALL SORTS OF THINGS...



* A WORD USED BY THE TRIBALS FOR THAT - WHICH IS TO BE FEARED, IN THIS CASE THE PROWLING TIGER.

...AND WAS FRIGHTENED.

I'D BETTER HIDE
SOMEWHERE
FOR THE NIGHT
...BUT WHERE?



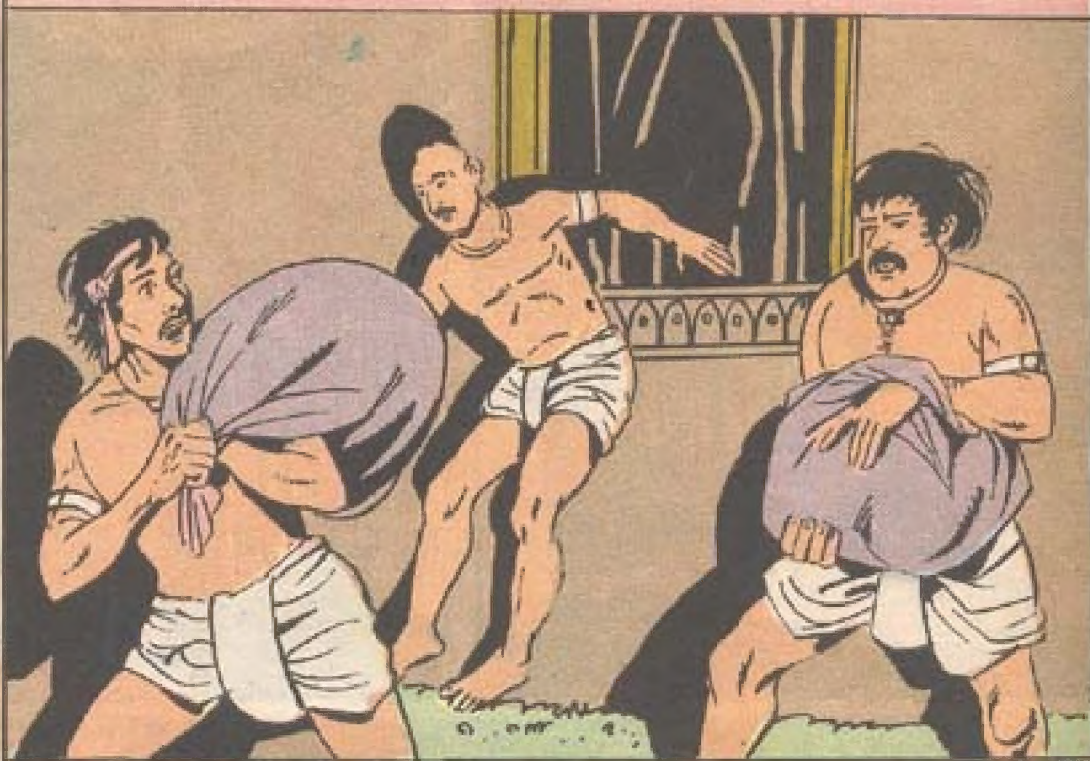
AH,
THAT
SHED!



LATER THAT NIGHT, THIEVES BROKE
INTO THE HOUSE OF THE MERCHANT...

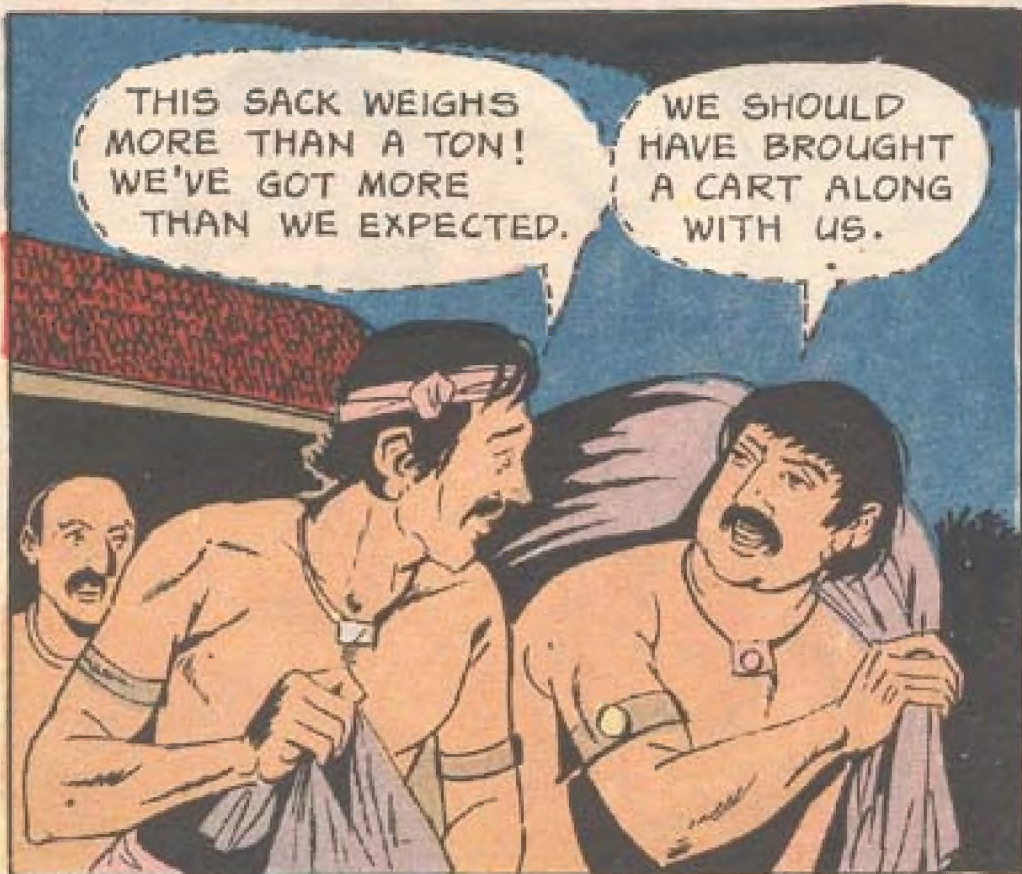


... AND CAME AWAY WITH TWO SACKS OF LOOT.



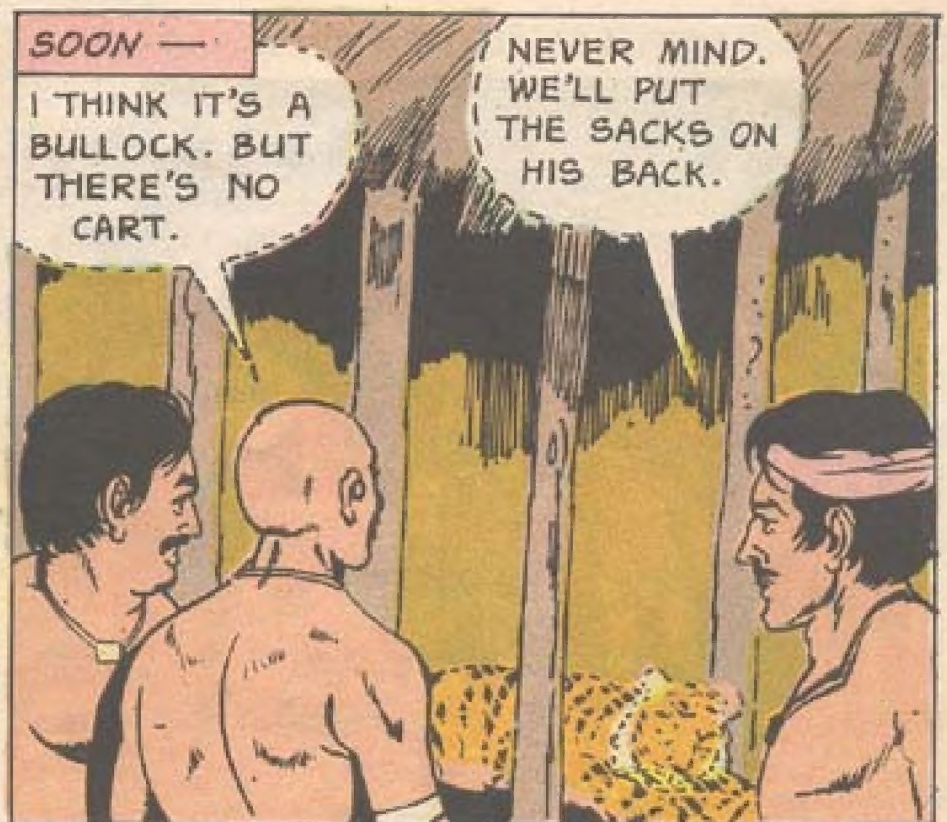
THIS SACK WEIGHS
MORE THAN A TON!
WE'VE GOT MORE
THAN WE EXPECTED.

WE SHOULD
HAVE BROUGHT
A CART ALONG
WITH US.



WE MIGHT
FIND ONE IN
THAT SHED.





AS THE LOOT WAS LOADED ON HIS BACK —



NO ORDINARY MAN WOULD DARE TREAT ME SO. MY WORST FEARS HAVE COME TRUE!



I AM IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE TERRIBLE BIKAL AND HIS FRIENDS!



OOOOH! THE LOAD IS HEAVY. BUT I DARE NOT PROTEST.



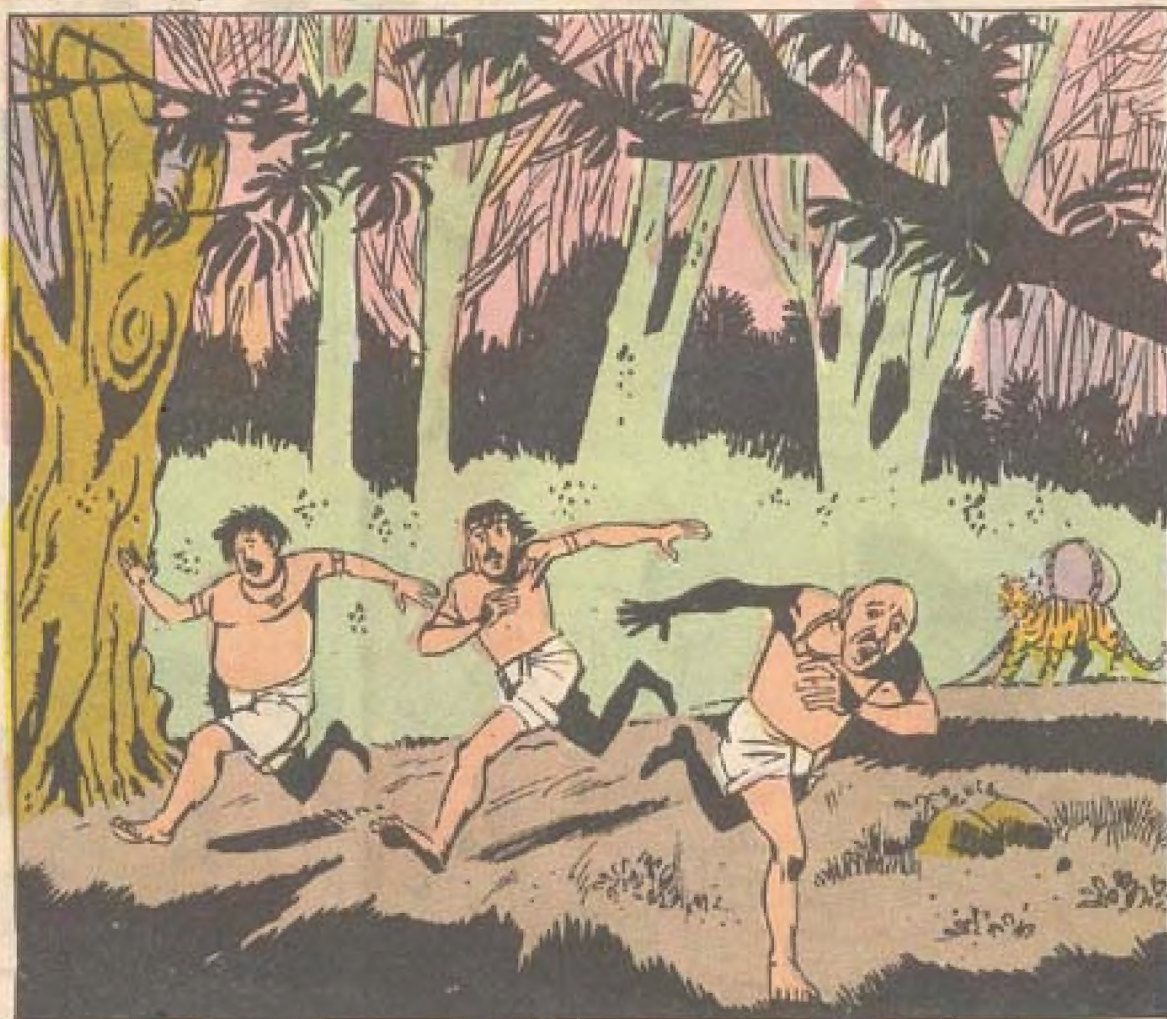
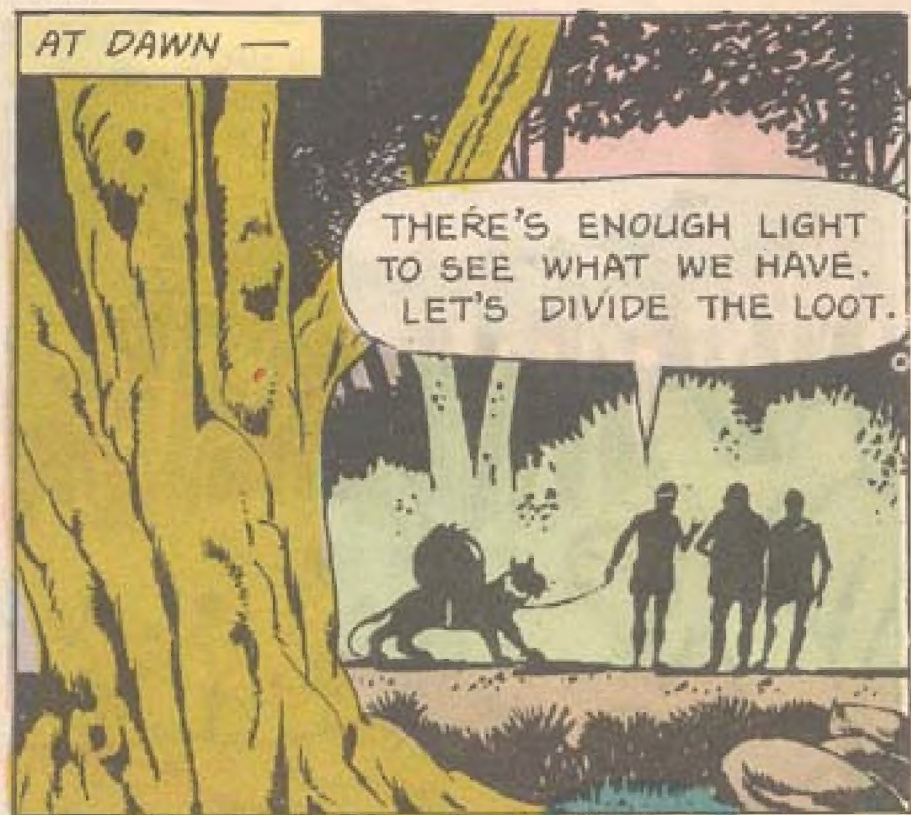
WE ARE RICH MEN NOW. I'LL BUY AS MANY GOATS AS I CAN WITH MY SHARE.

I'LL BUY SOME LAND.



AS FOR ME, I WILL GET MARRIED.



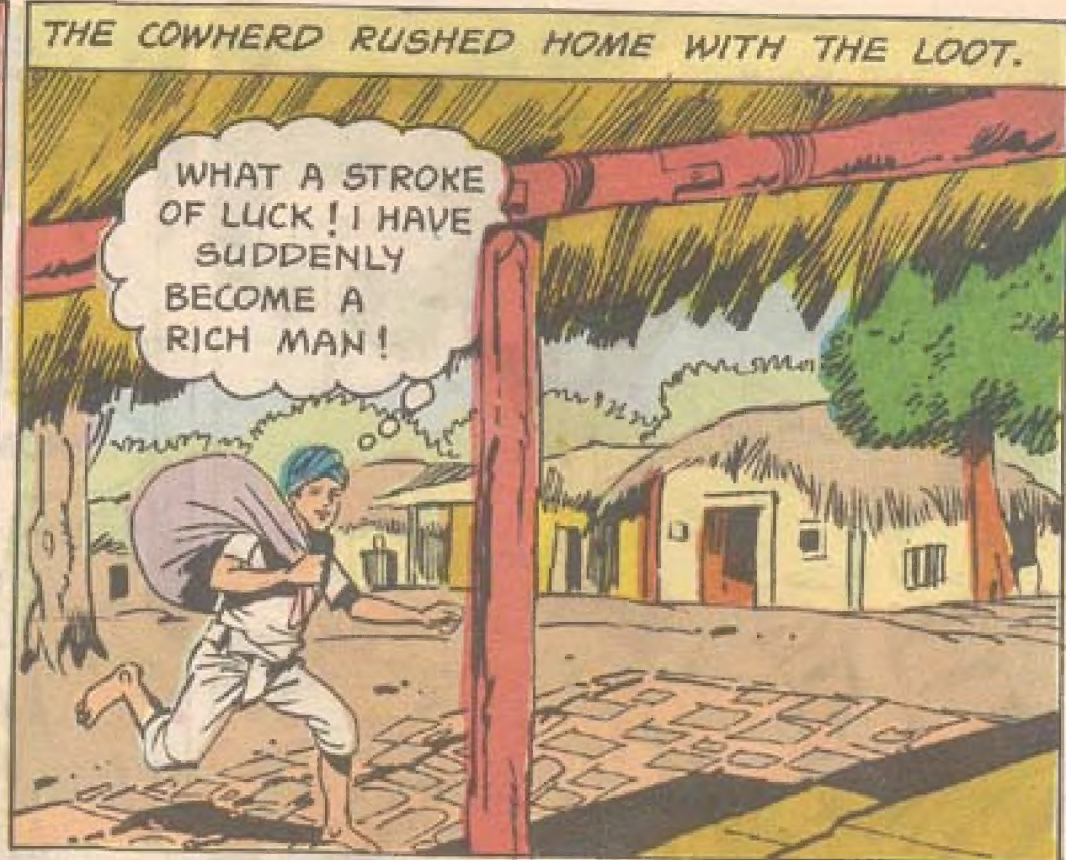




AS HE WAS WANDERING AROUND, FEELING RATHER ASHAMED OF HIMSELF, THE BUNDLE ON HIS BACK GOT CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO ROCKS.



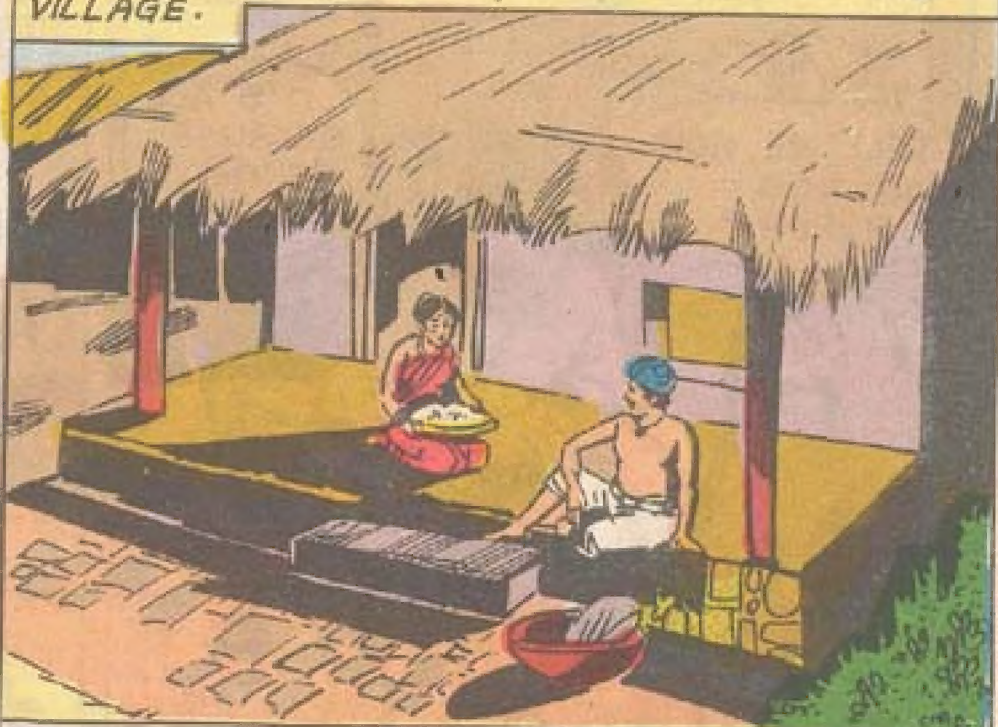




MONTHS PASSED. HE BOUGHT COWS AND BUFFALOES...

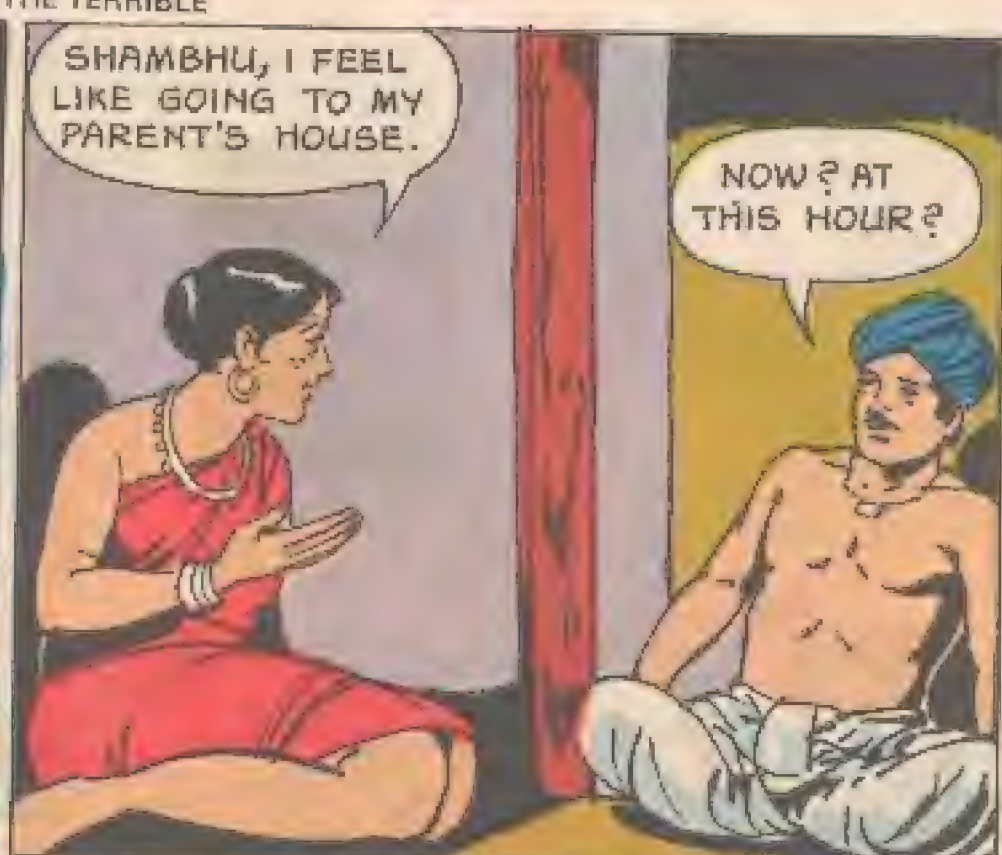


...AND MARRIED BHAGWATI, THE MOST INTELLIGENT, HARD-WORKING GIRL IN THE VILLAGE.



AS SHAMBHU FINISHED NARRATING THE STORY, THE TIGER HAPPENED TO STROLL BY.





...STEALTHILY LIFTED THE SLEEPING SHAMBHU ...



...AND LEFT WITHOUT DISTURBING BHAGWATI.



HE CARRIED THE COWHERD TO THE FOREST. THERE, HE THREW HIM DOWN WITH A THUD.

OW! WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?



YES, YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE SO I AM GOING TO EAT YOU.

OH! IT'S YOU...



WAIT! EAT ME BY ALL MEANS BUT IN THE MORNING.

WHY NOT NOW?



MY FLESH IS TOUGH NOW BECAUSE OF THE COLD, BUT IT WILL BECOME TENDER AND WARM WITH THE MORNING SUN.





SOMETIME LATER, THE TIGER, WHO WAS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE SUN TO RISE, HEARD A WEIRD SOUND.







AS SHAMBHU HESITATED —

FRIEND, DO HIT ME... YOU MUST DO WHAT BIKAL SAYS IN ORDER TO SAVE ME.



BUT HIT ME GENTLY...



THE COWHERD HIT THE TIGER GENTLY ON THE HEAD. THEN —

HIT IT HARDER IF IT IS MERELY A PILE OF CLOTHES.

YES. HIT A LITTLE HARDER OTHERWISE...



THIS WENT ON FOR A WHILE.

HARDER! HARDER!

YES, A LITTLE HARDER...



AFTER A WHILE —

HARDER...

NO NEED, DEAR, OUR FRIEND HAS SWOONED.



LEAVING THE WOUNDED TIGER TO ITS FATE THE CLEVER COUPLE HAPPILY RETURNED HOME.



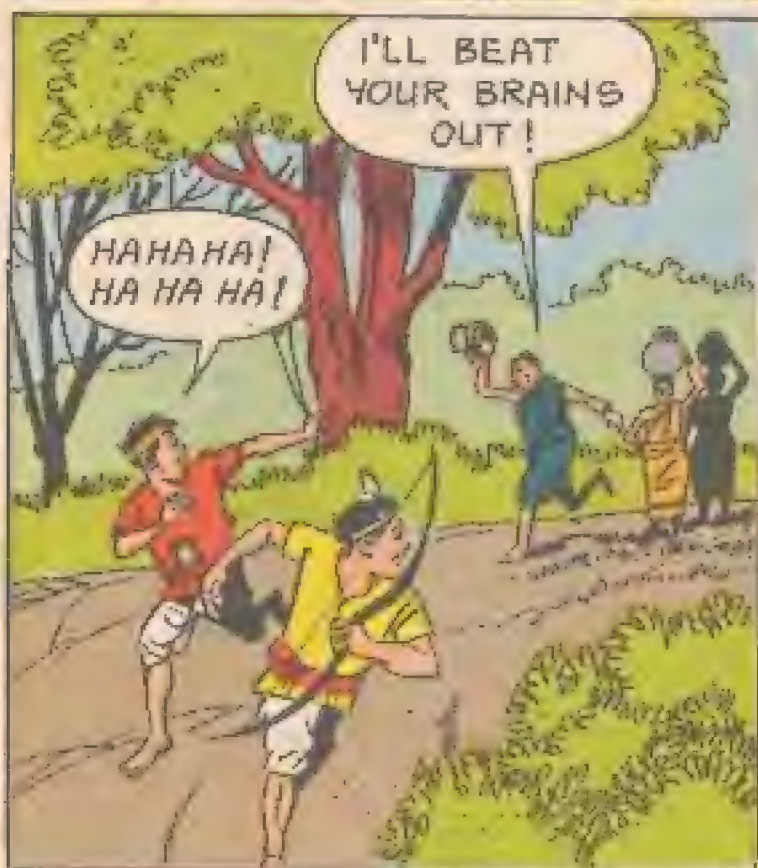
THE TIGER-TAMERS

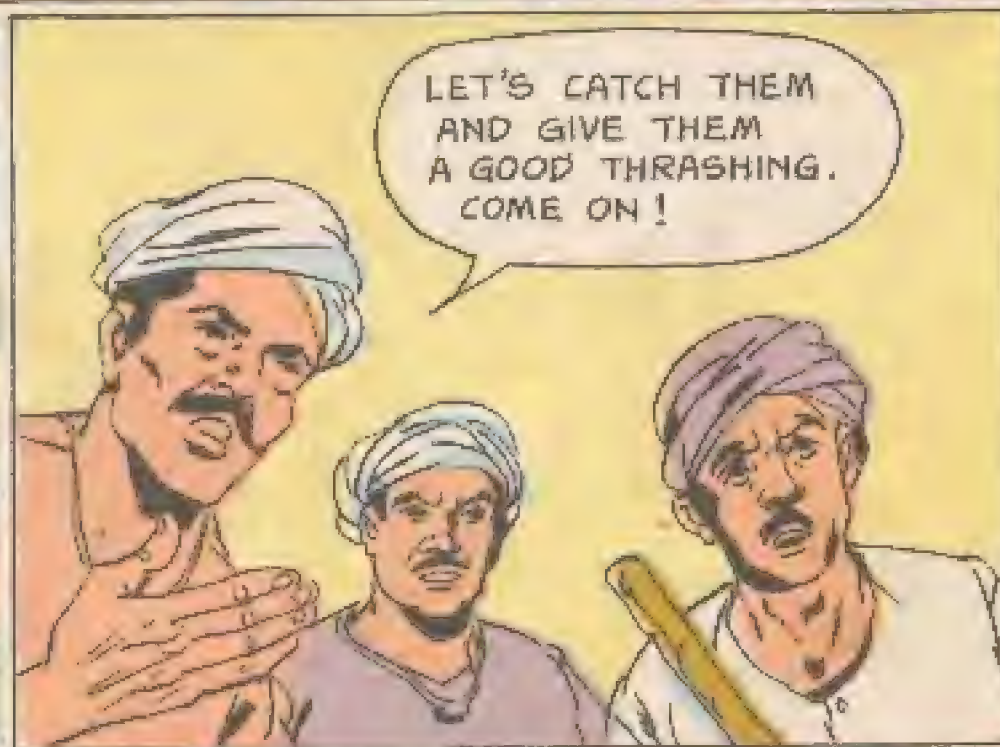
THEY DIDN'T DO A SPOT OF WORK BUT ALL THE TIME HARASSED THOSE WHO DID.



TWO MISCHIEVOUS BOYS ONCE LIVED IN A VILLAGE.









BUT THE BOYS OUTRAN THE VILLAGERS...



...AND KEPT RUNNING TILL THEY REACHED THE SAFETY OF THE JUNGLE.



THERE, EXHAUSTED, THEY THREW THEMSELVES ON THE GROUND.



WHEN THEY HAD RECOVERED THEIR BREATH SOMEWHAT—

NOW WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WE CAN ONLY GO FORWARD.



YOU ARE RIGHT. IT'LL TAKE SOME DAYS FOR THOSE PEOPLE TO COOL DOWN... IF AT ALL THEY DO COOL DOWN.



SO THE BOYS WENT DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE.



THEY WALKED ON AND ON, THEN STOPPED DEAD...



...FOR SEATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR PATH WAS AN ENORMOUS TIGER.



THE YOUNGER BOY SUDDENLY DARTED FORWARD...



...THREW HIMSELF ON THE TIGER'S BACK...



...AND CATCHING HOLD OF THE ANIMAL'S EARS PUSHED HIS HEAD DOWN. AT THE SAME TIME THE OLDER BOY GRABBED HIS TAIL.



THE TIGER WAS STARTLED OUT OF HIS WITS.







THE TIGER, TREMBLING WITH FEAR, LED THE BOYS TO HIS CAVE.



THE TIGER RAN AND RAN...



...TILL HE HAD LEFT THE CAVE AND THE BOYS FAR BEHIND.



NOW TO FEED
THE TWELVE
TIGERS.



HE STALKED...



...AND KILLED A SAMBHAR...

...AND WENT TO INVITE HIS FRIENDS
TO EAT WITH HIM.



MEANWHILE
INSIDE HIS CAVE —

NECKLACES!
ARMLETS!
CROWNS!

HE WAS NOT
EXAGGERATING
ABOUT THE
WEALTH HERE.



THE TWO BOYS GATHERED TOGETHER ALL
THE ORNAMENTS LYING IN AND AROUND
THE CAVE ...



...AND NOT FINDING THE TIGER OUTSIDE...



...WENT ON THEIR WAY.



AS THEY WALKED ON—



ARE WE GOING
TOWARDS THE
VILLAGE OR AWAY
FROM IT ?

I DON'T
KNOW.

I THINK WE ARE
LOST. TRY TO REMEMBER
WHICH WAY WE CAME ...
WHAT ARE YOU
STARING AT ?

TIGERS!



TEN —
TWELVE —
THIRTEEN
OF THEM ...



WE'RE
DONE FOR
IF THEY
SEE US!



LET'S
CLIMB UP
THAT TREE.





...BUT THE OTHER WAS A LITTLE SLOW AND HE WAS STILL HALF-WAY UP THE TRUNK WHEN THE TIGERS CAME INTO VIEW.





THE TIGERS MADE THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE UNDER THE TREE. THEN THE OLDEST AMONG THEM TURNED TO THE HOST.







RUN! RUN
FOR YOUR
LIVES!



SHAKEN TO THE CORE, THE
TIGERS LEAPED OVER EACH
OTHER AND FLED IN TERROR.



GOOD THINKING,
BROTHER. I THOUGHT
IT WAS THE END
FOR ME.



ANYWAY, WHILE I WAS
UP THERE I SAW THE
ROUTE WE SHOULD
TAKE TO GET BACK
TO OUR VILLAGE.



SO LET'S GO
BACK HOME. THOSE
PEOPLE ARE SURE TO
FORGIVE US WHEN
THEY HEAR ABOUT
OUR ADVENTURE
AND SEE WHAT WE
HAVE IN OUR
BUNDLE.

It's magic!



Wonder Bridge:

Challenge someone to make a piece of paper support a glass atop two spaced glasses.

Secret:

Fold the paper concertina-wise. It's strong enough to carry the glass!



Disappearing Pencil:

Place a pencil under a handkerchief. Toss the handkerchief aside and the pencil is gone!

Secret:

As soon as you've placed the pencil under the handkerchief, extend your

fore-finger to make it appear to be the pencil holding up the handkerchief.

At the same time, drop the pencil down your sleeve. When the handkerchief is removed, the pencil is gone! Remember, magic means practice and practice builds your confidence in the art of magic.



4 Coins to 5:

Set up four coins on a table in front of you. Count them off so that there can be no mistake about the fact that there are only four coins on the table.

Now slide these coins off the table and — voilà — you have five!

Secret:

Under the table there is a fifth coin which you have attached with a piece of soap. While you are gathering the four coins from the table top, simply reach under the table with your fingers, palming the fifth coin. A neat trick.

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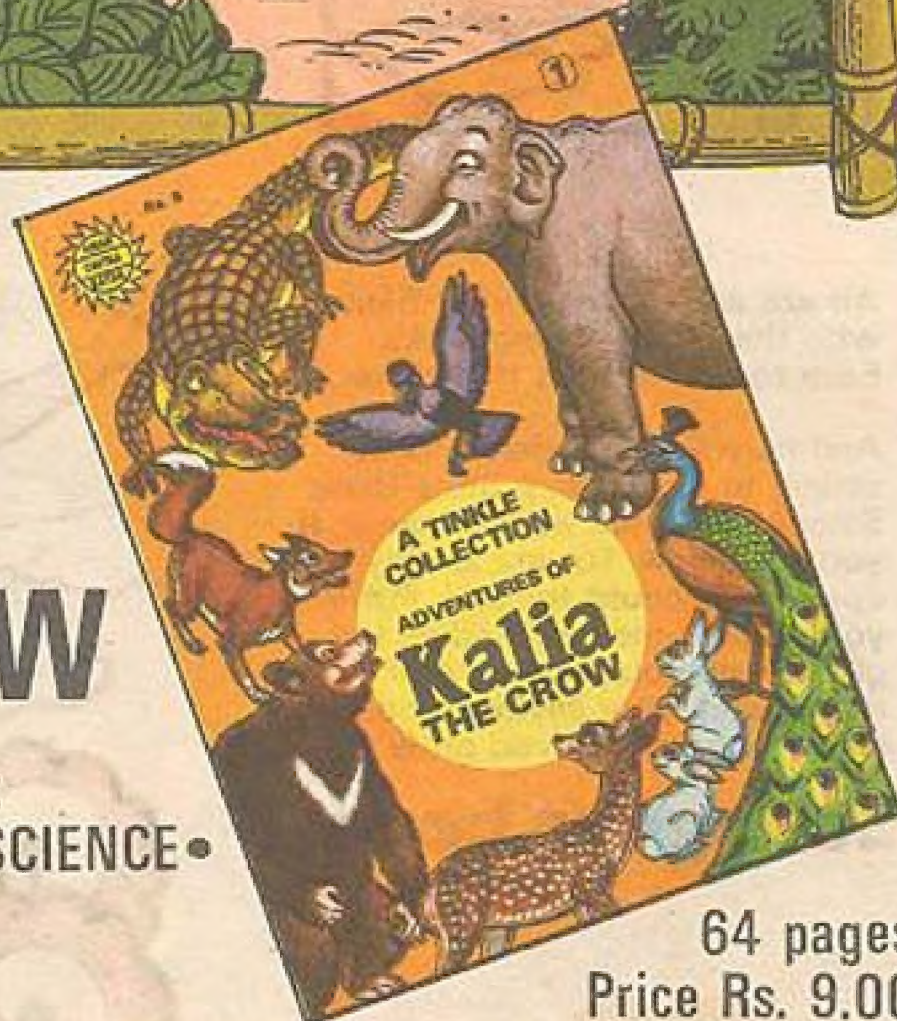
FRIENDS!
A COLLECTION OF
MY ADVENTURES IS
NOW AVAILABLE IN
A SPECIAL BUMPER
ISSUE!

I AM IN IT TOO!

THOSE TWO! ALWAYS
HOGGING THE
LIMELIGHT! WHO DO
THEY THINK THEY
ARE!

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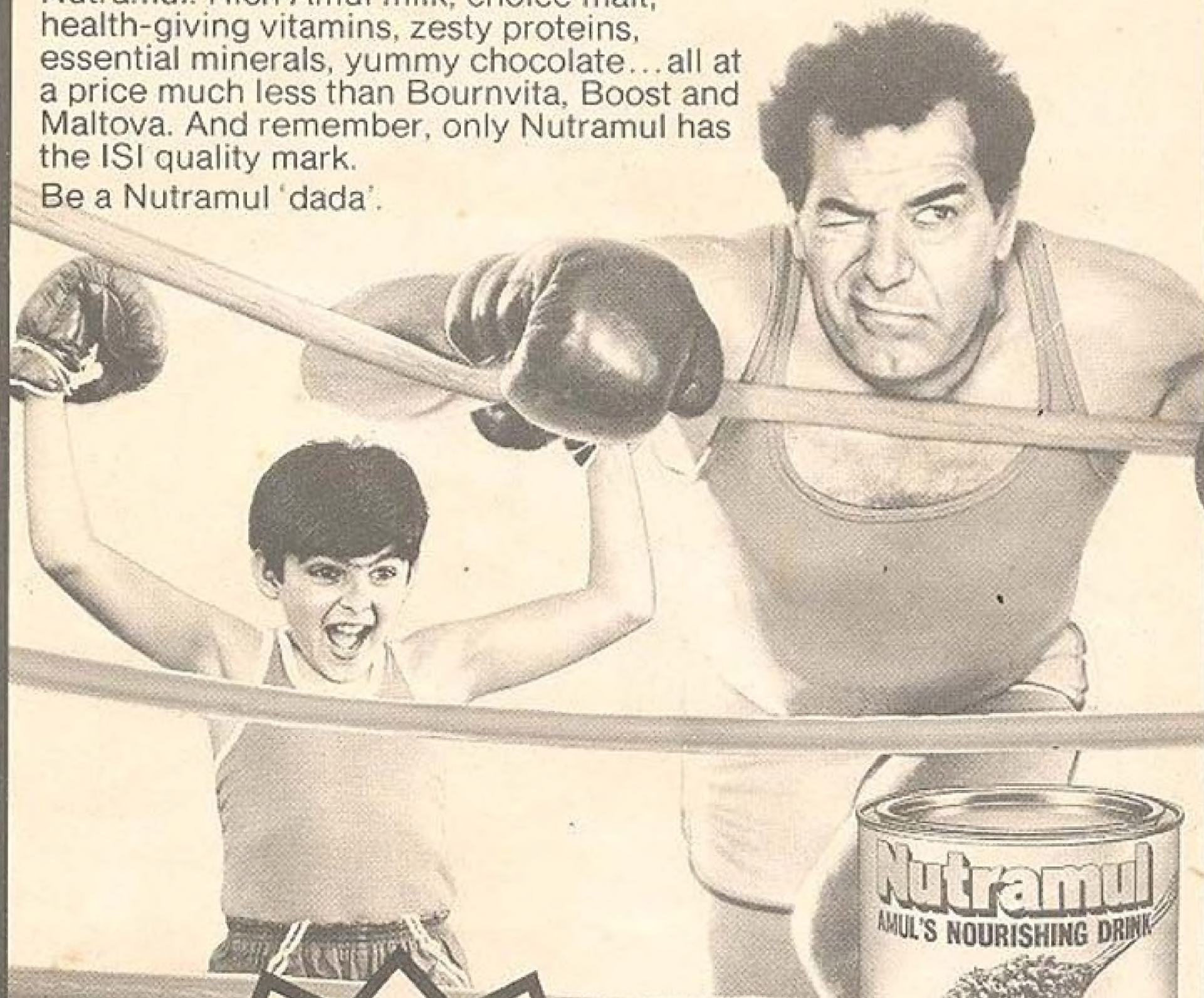
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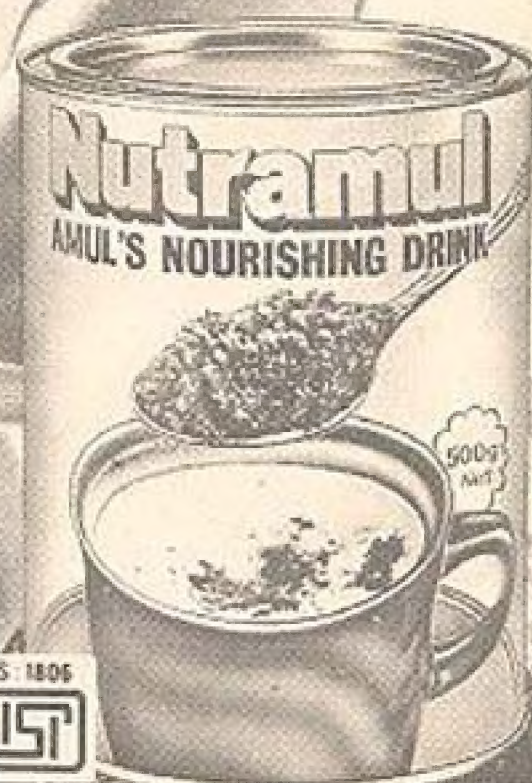
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USING YOUR MOUTH
CAN ALSO BE
AN ART!



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GOLDSPOTTERS

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GOLDSPOTTING.

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FOR THE WINNER!

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